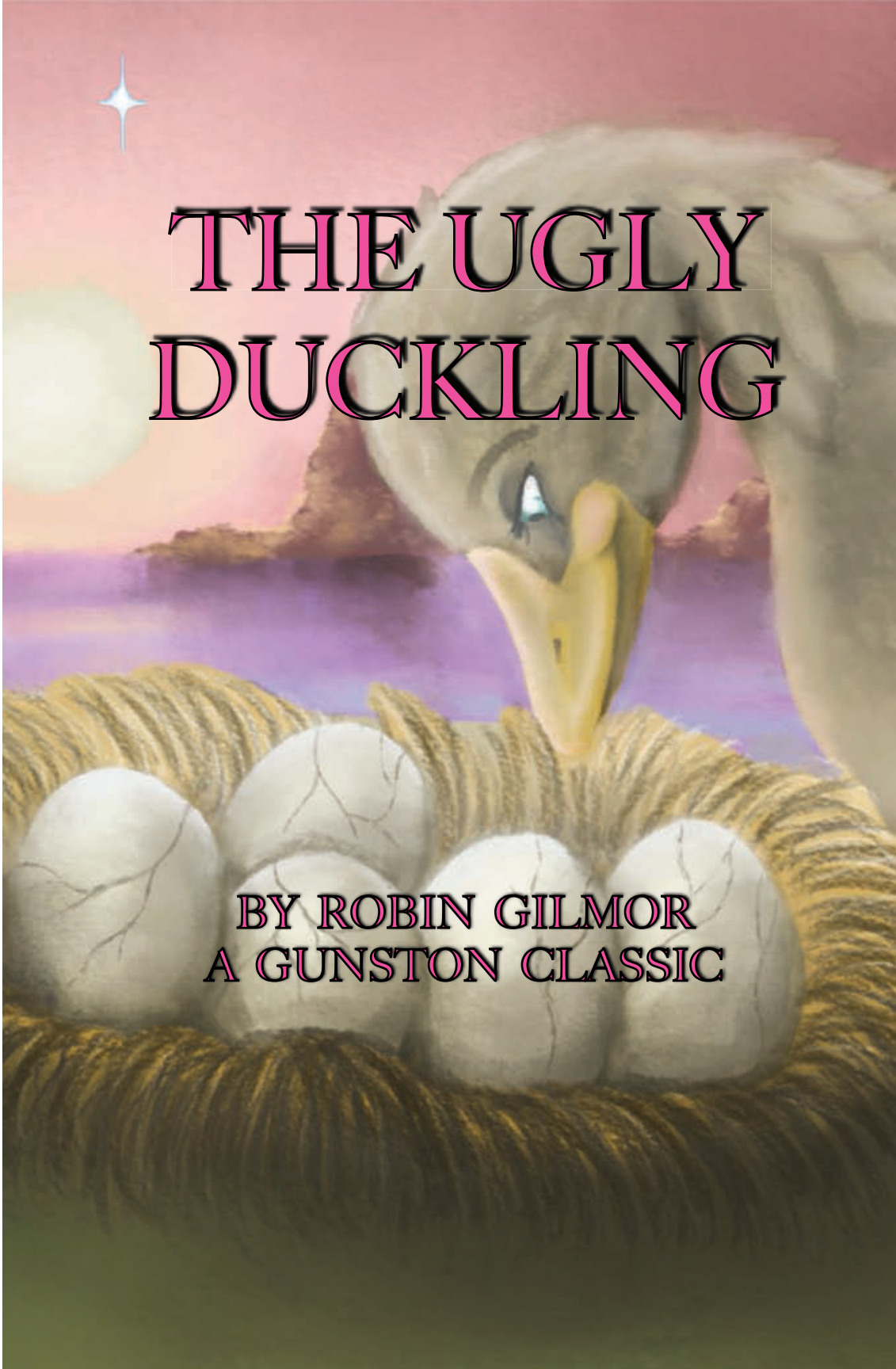
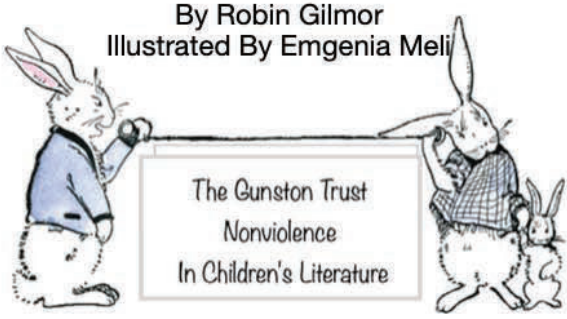

THE UGLY DUCKLING
BY ROBIN GILMOR
A GUNSTON CLASSIC

Gunston & The Book Bunnies

The Gunston Trust

THE UGLY DUCKLING

By Robin Gilmor
Illustrated By Emgenia Meli



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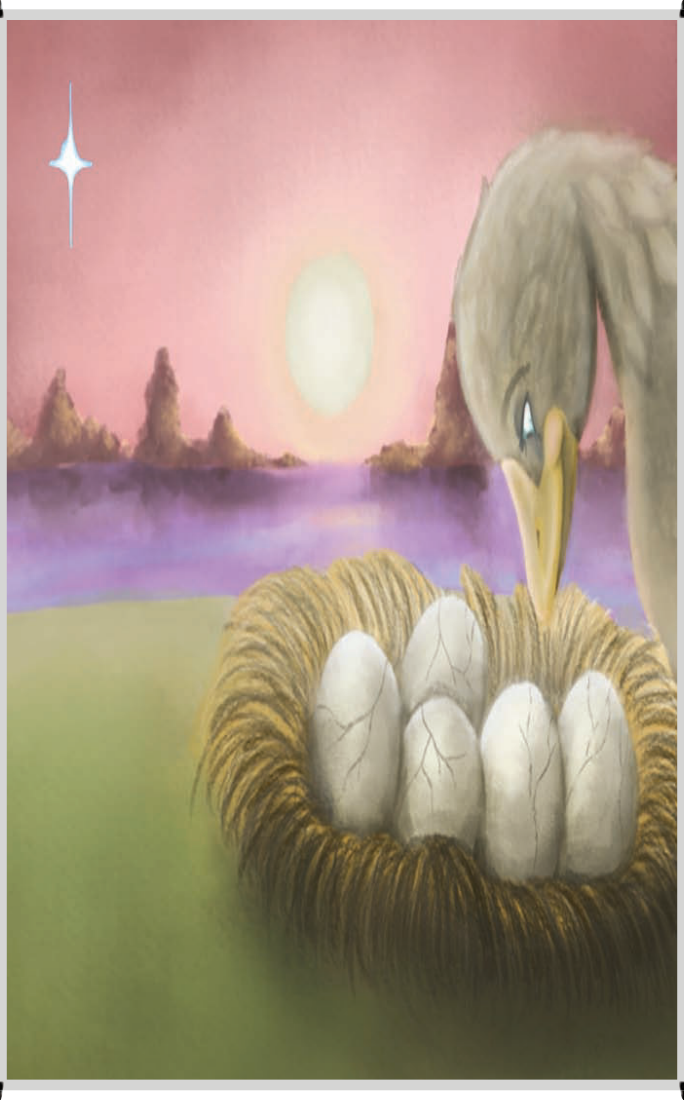
The Ugly Duckling



A mother duck sat
on her eggs in her nest,

As the bright sun appeared
one early spring morn.

On the sandy shore

of an old county pond

Five tiny ducklings

finally hatched and were born.

All fuzzy and cute
were the four little ducks
With sharp tiny beaks
and yellow feathers of down,
Yet the fifth little duckling
looked frightfully ugly
With dull fuzzy feathers
not yellow, but brown!

The four little ducklings,
they grew and they grew.
They swam in the pond
and played games on the shore.
But the one Ugly Duckling
played all alone
For he wasn't included
in their games any more.

He played with the frogs,
but he just couldn't hop.
He dove under the water
and swam all around,
while the four little ducklings
quacked at the Ugly.
They made fun of him
and his strange honking sound.

QUACK, QUACK
HONK, HONK

Yes the four little ducklings

quacked and they quacked.

They practiced their quack

as they played all day long.

But the poor little Ugly

honked when he tried,
For he just could not make

their sweet sounding song!

He practiced his waddle. . . .
it just didn't work,
So he hid in the grass
by the sycamore tree.
This poor little duckling
so frightened and scared
Was ever so lonely
as lonely could be.

The cold winds of winter
blew snow and blew ice,

And this poor little Ugly

had no place to go.

He lived by himself so hungry and cold,
as he grew and he shivered

alone in the snow.

With the warms winds of spring,

The ice disappeared.

The robins built nests

And the hives buzzed with bees.

As a wedge of white swans

arrived at the pond,
By the stately and grand

old sycamore tree.

Their honking was heard
all over the pond,
As the ducks watched in wonder
this magical sight,
And then from the cattails
emerged a young swan,
Their own little Ugly,
with feathers all white!

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THE UGLY DUCKLING

You're not a duckling,

you're a beautiful swan,"

The Mother Swan said,

"I misplaced you last year!

Join your brothers and sisters

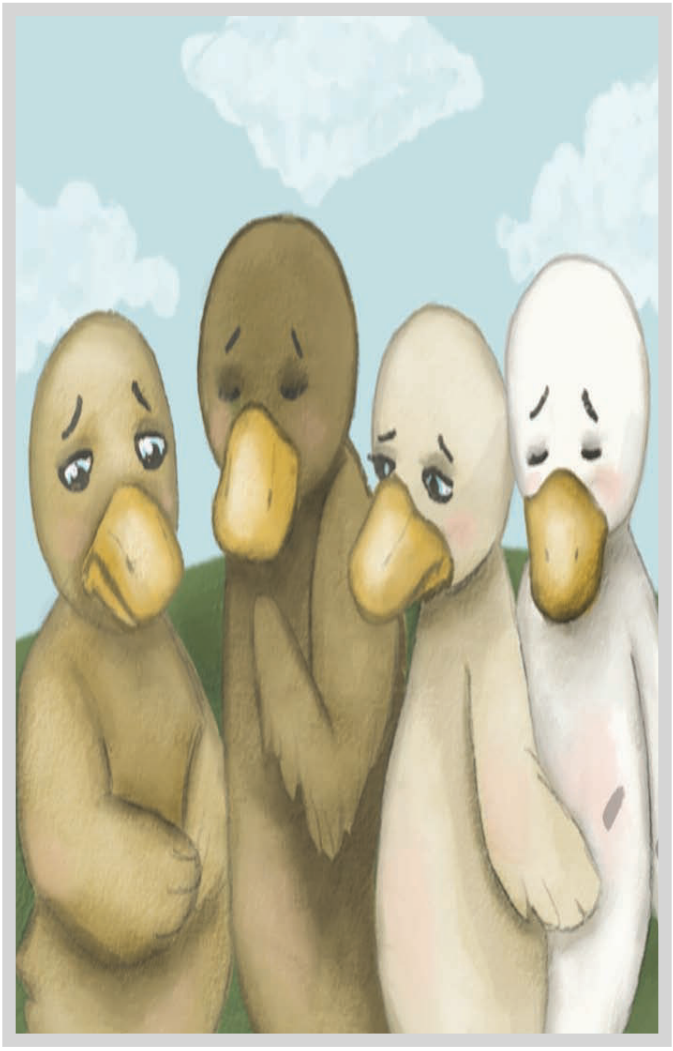
for this is your family."

The Swan joined his mother

and dried his last tear.

Now the Ugly was lovely
and proud to be home,
with his brothers and sisters
he played and had fun.
All day on the pond
they swam in the water,
playing together
in the warm summer sun.

With his head held up high
by his long graceful neck,
This once ugly duckling
now a sight to be seen.
The ducks watched in awe
at this beautiful bird.
His honk now a trumpet,
with a tune so serene!



"The Ugly Duckling"

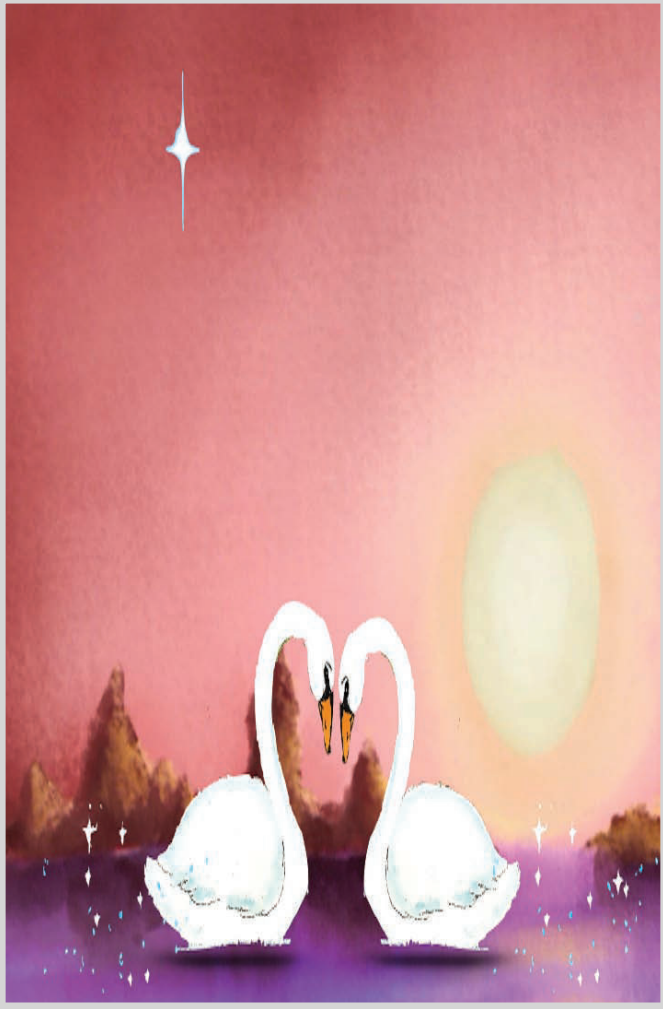
They sat and they marveled
at this beautiful bird,
With his feathers so white
and his tail pins so long.
Melodious sounds
when he trumpets his song,
How their treatment of him
had been terribly wrong.

Did the ducks learn a lesson
from this little tale?

Don't tease or make fun
of the one that seems strange.

He could end up being
your very best friend,

Please be kind and include him
in all of your games.



THE END

The Ugly Duckling

An original literary tale by Danish poet and author Christian Andersen (1805 – 1875).

The story tells of a homely little bird born by a pond who suffers abuse from the others around him until, much to his delight (and to the surprise of others), he matures into a beautiful swan, the most beautiful bird of all.

The story is beloved around the world as a tale about personal transformation for the better.

"The Ugly Duckling" was first published in 1843, with three other tales by Andersen in Copenhagen, Denmark to great critical acclaim. The tale has been adapted to various media including opera, musical, and animated film. The tale is completely Andersen's invention and owes no debt to fairy tales or folklore.

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Nonviolence in Children's Literature

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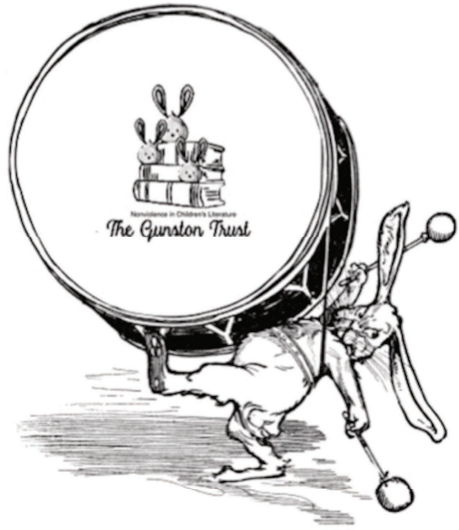
THE UGLY DUCKLING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